



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LA PORTE COUNTY

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Richard Mrozinski,
President

Michael Gonder,
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Member

MINUTES

LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at the La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

President Mrozinski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mrozinski asked Whitney Pierle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Diane Gonzales called the roll: Commissioner Gonder - Present; Commissioner Kora - Present; Commissioner Mrozinski - Present. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2017 MINUTES

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the minutes from the November 1st meeting. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Secretary Gonzales read the claims with Payroll ending 11-3-2017 - \$1,111,610.87 and Miscellaneous - \$1,068,314.78. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the claims as read. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Larry Butcher - EMA - Requested permission to sell all radios that no longer work due to the 800 MHz project. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve as long as the proper legal procedure is followed. Motion includes working with County Attorney Doug Biege on the process. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Connie Gramarossa - Shared Ethics - Reported on the October 4th Department Heads Shared Ethics training. Connie stated 124 people signed up but only 98 actually participated. Six registered from La Porte County but only 3 attended. Training is offered to all Department heads and assistants.

Bob Young - Highway Dept - Updated Commissioners on the Community Crossings Grant for Johnson Road. Bids will be due on the next Commissioners' meeting December 6th. Commissioner Gonder questioned the striping on Johnson Road. Bob replied striping will be part of the project for the 2018 year.

ORIGINAL

President Mrozinski reported the County Home still needs attention. Tax credits have been applied for twice. Ideas have been talked about with different people. A decision needs to be made. Commissioner Kora commented that applying for the tax credits may take a bit of time as the county pursues the possible sale of the home. Two appraisals have been done and were widely different by a huge amount. Attorney Biege stated he will report back to the Commissioners, after approval, a value from a third appraisal then a recommendation or layout of a proper sale. Commissioner Kora motioned for a third appraisal to be done for the County Home. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REQUESTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Young - Highway Dept - Recommendations on material bids:

Class 1 (Crushed limestone) - US Aggregates; South Lake Stone; Hanson Material - Low bid US Aggregates.

Class 2 (Patch) - Rieth Riley - Primary and only bidder.

Class 3 (Slag) - Phoenix Services; Beemsterboer - Low bidder Phoenix Services.

Class 4 (Gravel, Ice, Sand) - Will be bid out at a later date.

Class 5 (Fuel) - Al Warren Oil; Triple J Mar; Rackham - Call day of for low bid. Al Warren Oil was missing pages of the bid when it was opened therefore considered incomplete and will not be used, they have been notified.

Class 6 (Signs & Posts) - Roadsafe; Stello; Osburn; Hall Signs - All four bids accepted, all will be used.

Class 7 (Culverts & Guardrail) - Metal Culverts; Debco - Culverts - Use both; James H. Drew - Guardrail - only bidder.

Commissioner Kora motioned for bids to be approved by the highway department. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioners' report on the Michigan City Courthouse Renovation Project. Attorney Biege stated StructurePoint did a master plan with a committee of several county officials for over a year. A recommendation for rehabilitation of the courthouse would be roughly 17.8 million dollars. Attorney Biege reported with the direction of the Commissioners to look into a City/County building with Mayor Meer and the cost of a new building versus rehabbing the current courthouse. Michigan City's timeline is not the same as the County's. The cost of a new courthouse for construction came in at 27.6 million dollars per square foot not including the cost of land purchase and utility upgrade - water, sewer, gas and electric. Bond counsel and financial advisors connected with issuing bonds have been taken into consideration. Commissioner Kora thanked Attorney Biege for looking into other options. He then made a motion to go forward with the renovation with a budget not to exceed 15 million dollars in hard cost. He also stated using the firms recommended by Attorney Biege, Umbaugh & Associates as the accounting firm and Ice Miller for bond counsel. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Considered the 2018 Holiday Calendar. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Holiday calendar are attached to these minutes.

Considered the 2018 Commissioners' meetings Calendar. Commissioner Kora moved to approve. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried. Commissioners' meetings are attached to these minutes.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora spoke with County Engineer about the current Franklin Street Bridge repair work being done. County Engineer Jay Sullivan is working on drawings with Steve Eyrick, Probation department. Drawings should be available at the next Commissioners' meeting.

ORIGINAL

Commissioner Kora also mentioned he is having Jay look into the flow through traffic at 400 N. and Hwy 421 intersection in Michigan City due to the new hospital being built. Commissioner Kora reported on his return from the American Medical Association conference. Deaths from prescribed opioids are down but have gone up for illegal opioids, examples: heroin and fentanyl. Commissioner Kora wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Gonder concurred - Wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

President Mrozinski reported from the Treasurer's office that mail-in tax payments are still being processed and taxes have brought in more than the goal of \$55 million dollars. President Mrozinski stated from the VSO a reminder of "Wreaths across America" will be at Greenwood Cemetery in Michigan City December 16th. The Patriotic Service Medal and Lapel Pin ceremony will be Saturday, November 18th, at 10:00 a.m. at the County Complex room #3. President Mrozinski praised the Economic Development office and their efforts for the county.

Commissioner Kora reported on Mitch Bishop, County Planner, currently working on the old landfill site as a development for a park. He thanked Mitch and Mike Seitz for the work they are doing.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Kora motioned to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA
DATE _____ 12-16-17

ATTEST: _____
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORIGINAL